
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA



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Honda Brings Educators, Industry Together To Improve Classroom Technology

San Jose, CA— U.S. Congressman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) today brought educators and high-tech industry leaders together to discuss how best to improve our schools by integrating technology into classroom instruction and teacher preparation. Honda, a former high school science teacher, plans to collaborate with South Bay educators and industry leaders to push a number of technology-driven education proposals in the Congress this year.

"It is very refreshing that Mike Honda has brought such a diverse group together to develop a long-term agenda to improve educational opportunity for young people," said Ted Olsson, IBM's Manager of Corporate/Community Relations for the Western United States. **"We are grateful to Mr. Honda for beginning this important dialogue between educators and the technology industry and for his willingness to hear our concerns."**

"I am very pleased to see that Congressman Honda is committed to addressing the critically important issue of building technology infrastructure for our schools," said David Dawes, Manager of Information Technology for the San Jose Unified Public School District. **"I look forward to working with him and the other members of the group on this issue and on improving teacher training and professional development through technology."**

Honda plans to continue his dialogue with educators and technology leaders as part of his ongoing effort to harness the resources and innovation of his Silicon Valley district to improve the quality of classroom education across the nation. The group discussed Honda's proposal to offer tax credits to companies who deploy broadband technology to classrooms. A broadband connection to the Internet will enable students to receive and transmit rich, multimedia data almost instantaneously. Currently, many areas do not have access to broadband because companies only have financial incentive to build out their networks to densely populated business districts—where very few schools are located.

The group also discussed Honda's proposal to establish a "Tech Corps" enabling volunteers with high-tech skills to provide technology training to teachers and technical assistance to school network administrators. Tech Corps would function under the supervision of the Corporation for National Service—the parent organization for AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and the Peace Corps. The group also discussed Honda's proposal to fully fund the development of technology and educational programs for children and adults with disabilities.

"It makes good sense to bring local educators and high-tech industry leaders together to improve educational opportunities for our young people through technology because both groups have a strong interest in making sure our young people are prepared to succeed in the global marketplace," said Honda. **"By passing legislation such as tax credits for companies who deploy broadband technology in schools and by bolstering our special education programs with technology, we can make a real difference in the lives of our young people while improving the quality of our workforce."**